

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 HA-05 IO-13 TRSE-00 /094 W
-----014216 200442Z /73

R 171158Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7011
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 2131

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, UV
SUBJECT: ANALYSIS OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS RESULTS

REF: OUAGADOUGOU 2018

1. RESULTS OF MAY 14 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS SURPRISED MOST OBSERVERS AND MUST HAVE COME AS A SHOCK TO PRESIDENT LAMIZANA. IT WAS GENERALLY EXPECTED THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE ELECTED ON THE FIRST BALLOT EVEN IF ONLY BY A SMALL MAJORITY. POOR PARTICIPATION BY VOTERS WAS UNDOUBTEDLY A FACTOR IN THE PRESIDENT'S FAILURE TO WIN, BUT THE DECISION BY JOSEPH OUEDRAOGO, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, TO BE A CANDIDATE AGAINST THE WISHES OF HIS PARTY, THE UDV-RDA, TOOK 167,000 SOME RDA VOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S TOTAL AND EFFECTIVELY DENIED HIM VICTORY ON THE FIRST BALLOT.

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2. PRESIDENT LAMIZANA DID REASONABLY WELL IN THE REGIONS OF DEDOURVU, BOBO DIOULASSO, FADA N'GOURMA, DORI AND PARTICULARLY OUAHIGOUYA WHERE HIS ALLIANCE WITH FORMER PRIME MINISTR GERARD KONGO OUEDRAOGO ASSURED HIM AN EASY VICTORY. EXCEPT FOR OUAHIGOUYA, HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT FAILED TO WIN EVEN A RELATIVE PRIORITY IN ALL OF THE PREDOMINENTLY MOSSI REGIONS.

MACAIRE OUEDRAOGO OF THE UNDD DID EXTREMELY WELL IN THE REGIONS OF KOUDOUGOU (BIRTHPLACE OF FORMER PRESIDENT MAURICE YAMEOGO) AND TENKODOGO. JOSEPH OUEDRAOGO OF THE "FRONT DU REFUS" RECEIVED MOST OF HIS VOTES FROM THE REGION OF OUAGADOUGOU. PROFESSOR JOSEPH KI-ZERBO OF THE UPV FAILED TO WIN A MAJORITY OF VOTES IN ANY OF THE DEPARTMENTS.

3. CERTAIN CONCLUSIONS CAN BE DRAWN FROM THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST BALLOT:

(A) IN THE ABSENCE OF A CHARISMATIC CANDIDATE, THE VOLTAN VOTERS SHOW LITTLE INTEREST IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS, AT LEAST AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL.

(B) THE MORA NABA, EMPEROR OF THE MOSSIS, AND OTHER TRADITIONAL CHIEFS WERE UNABLE TO DELIVER THE MASSIVE MOSSI VOTE ON WHICH PRESIDENT LAMIZANA WAS COUNTING FOR A VICTORY ON THE FIRST BALLOT.

(C) THE INFLUENCE OF FORMER PRESIDENT MAURICE YAMEOGO IS STILL CONSIDERABLE IN THE MOSSI REGIONS AS SHOWN BY THE VICTORY OF HIS CANDIDATE MACAIRE OUEDRAOGO IN THE KOUDOUGOU AND TENKODOGO DEPARTMENTS.

4. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION, THE RUN-OFF ELECTION ON MAY 28 WILL BE BETWEEN PRESIDENT LAMIZANA
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AND MACAIRE OUEDRAOGO OF THE UNDD. JOSEPH OUEDERAOGO HAS ALREADY INDICATED THAT HE WILL URGE HIS FOLLOWERS TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS FOR THE UNDD CANDIDATE ON MAY 28. IF HE IS SUCCESSFUL, AND IF VOTER PARTICIPATION REMAINS APPROXIMATELY THE SAME, THIS WOULD GIVE MACAIRE OUEDRAOGO THE POSSIBILITY OF WINNING ON THE SECOND BALLOT. THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS WILL HINGE ON THE ATTITUDE OF THE UPV SUPPORTERS. SO FAR PROFESSOR KI-ZERBO HAS NOT COMMITTED HIMSELF BUT, EVEN IF HE DECIDES TO SUPPORT MACAIRE OUEDRAOGO, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT UPV VOTERS IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY WOULD FOLLOW HIS ADVICE. THUS, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE RESULTS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS OF MAY 28 WILL BE VERY CLOSE AND IT IS IMPOSSIBLE AT THIS STAGE TO PREDICT ITS OUTCOME. GRAHAM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OUAGAD02131
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780212-0578
Format: TEL
From: OUAGADOUGOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780549/aaaabppk.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1ef0b39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 OUAGADOUGOU 2018
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2663772
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANALYSIS OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS RESULTS
TAGS: PINT, UV, (LAMIZANA, ABOUBACAR SANGOULE), (OUEDRAOGO, MACAIRE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1ef0b39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014